

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

WEST KENT COMBINED

SANITARY DISTRICT

IN

1900,

BY

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Annual Report on the Health

OF THE

West Kent Combined Sanitary

District in 1900.

The West Kent Combined Sanitary District includes the Rural Districts of Bromley, Cranbrook, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tenterden, and Tonbridge; and the Urban Districts of Chislehurst, Sevenoaks, Southborough, Tenterden, and Tonbridge.

The Parish of Chislehurst (a contributory place in the Bromley Rural District) has obtained urban powers and became a separate Urban District on April 1st, 1900.

An Altering Order, sanctioning and making provision for this change with reference to the duties of the Medical Officer of Health was issued by the Local Government Board, and dated November, 30th, 1900.

In the appended Tables, Chislehurst is included in the Bromley Rural District for the whole year; otherwise no comparison of statistics could be made with former years, but the rates for Chislehurst are given in the text of the Report, worked out on a three-quarter year basis.

A portion of the Rural District of Tonbridge (part of Rusthall and St. Peters Estate) was transferred to the area of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells on November 9th, 1900.

The Population was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General to be **141,778** at the middle of 1900, showing an increase of 1,429 since the middle of 1899.

The number of registered births amounted to 3,338, consisting of 1,695 of males and 1,643 of females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of **23·5** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 22·7 in the previous year.

The lowest birth-rates were 16·7 in the Sevenoaks Urban and 17·9 in the Chislehurst Urban Districts, whilst Tonbridge Rural with 26·4 and Maidstone Rural and Tenterden Rural with 23·6 each showed the highest birth-rates.

The number of registered deaths amounted to 2,066, including 1,112 of males and 954 of females. Of these 160 were those of non-residents, whilst 9 deaths occurred amongst residents outside the District, viz., at the Bromley and Beckenham Joint Isolation Hospital and at the Croydon Urban Isolation Hospital.

The **General Death-rate** was **13·5** per 1,000 of population as compared with 14·6 in the previous year.

The lowest death-rates were in the Chislehurst Urban (9·5) and the Bromley Rural (11·5) Districts, whilst the highest rates were shown by the Tenterden Urban District with 17·7 and the Tenterden Rural District with 14·8.

Of the total 2,065 deaths, 98 were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz., 3 by Scarlet Fever, 29 by Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup), 9 by Enteric Fever, 14 by Measles, 12 by Whooping-cough, and 31 by Diarrhoea.

Not included in these deaths are 13 which occurred outside the District among persons belonging to it, viz., 12 from Diphtheria and 1 from Typhoid Fever, and included are 6 of non-residents, viz., 3 from Diphtheria and 3 from Diarrhoea.

The actual number of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases therefore is 105.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** was **0·7** per 1,000 of population.

The lowest Zymotic death-rates were 0·0 in the Tenterden Urban and 0·3 in the Tonbridge Urban Districts, whilst Chislehurst Urban and Maidstone Rural Districts showed the highest, viz., 1·3 and 1·2 respectively.

The Infant Mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was **105** for the whole District, the minimum rate being 64 in the Tenterden Urban District and the maximum 164 in the Sevenoaks Urban District.

Notifiable Diseases.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has been in force throughout the District since 1890, and has by the Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act, 1899, been made compulsory in every urban, rural and port sanitary District throughout the country. The two Acts, henceforth to be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Notification Acts, 1889 and 1899, include the following diseases:—Small-pox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, the disease known as scarlet fever or scarlatina, and the fever known by any of the following names: Typhus, typhoid, enteric, relapsing, continued, or puerperal, and also any infectious disease to which the Act has been applied by the Local Authority in manner provided by the Act.

The Notifications received during the year 1900 numbered 835 as compared with 1,096 in the previous year.

They included 279 of Scarlet Fever, 378 of Diphtheria, 2 of Membranous Croup, 63 of Enteric Fever, 108 of Erysipelas, 1 of Continued Fever, and 4 of Puerperal Fever.

Of these notified cases 39·4 per cent. were removed to Isolation Hospitals.

No cases of Small-pox occurred throughout the year.

Scarlet Fever fell from 496 cases in 1899 to 279 in 1900, and 3 deaths were caused by the disease.

The greatest number of cases occurred in the Bromley Rural District, *viz.*, 88 cases, all of which were non-fatal.

Forty cases with 2 deaths occurred in the Maidstone Rural District and 24 with 1 death in the Tonbridge Rural District.

The Scarlet Fever death-rate was ·02 per 1,000 of population, and 45·1 per cent. were treated at Isolation Hospitals.

The following shows the incidence and mortality at the different age-periods :—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	
—	—	—	—	
49	184	33	13	—279 cases
2		1		— 3 deaths.

Diphtheria showed a considerable decrease, the cases falling from 408 in 1899 to 378 in 1900, 41 of which ended fatally as compared with 60 in the previous year. Three of these deaths were those of non-residents.

The diphtheria death-rate was 0·2 per 1,000 of population, with a case-mortality of 10·1 per cent.

The cases and deaths occurred at the following age periods :—

0—1 year.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	
—	—	—	—	—	
5	71	223	42	37	—378 cases.
2	18	18			— 38 deaths.

On the Urban Districts the incidence of Diphtheria was 2·6 cases per 1,000 of population with a case-mortality of 5·6 per cent., while that on the Rural Districts was also 2·6 cases per 1,000 of population and with a case-mortality of 7·5 per cent.

Membranous Croup. Two non-fatal cases were notified in the Tenterden Rural and Tonbridge Rural Districts.

Enteric Fever. Sixty-three cases, as compared with 50 in 1899, were notified, causing 10 deaths.

The Typhoid Fever death-rate was ·07 per 1,000 of population and the case-mortality 17·4 per cent.

The Tenterden Rural and the Sevenoaks Urban Districts were entirely free from the disease.

Puerperal Fever produced 4 non-fatal cases, 2 in Cranbrook Rural and 1 in each of the Sevenoaks Rural and Southborough Urban Districts.

Continued Fever. One case was reported in the Chislehurst Urban District.

Erysipelas fell from 138 cases in 1899 to 108 in 1900, causing 9 deaths.

The following shows the age-periods at which the cases and deaths occurred:—

0—1 year.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	65 years and upwards.	
2	8	11	76	11	—108 cases.
			6	3	— 9 deaths.

Non-notifiable Diseases.

Measles. Only 14 deaths were caused by this disease, giving a Measles death-rate of .09 per 1,000 of population. The deaths occurred: 3 in Bromley Rural, 3 in Maidstone Rural, 5 in Tonbridge Rural, and 3 in Tonbridge Urban Districts.

Whooping-cough also showed a considerable decrease, falling from 39 deaths in 1899 to 12 in 1900.

They occurred: 4 in Bromley Rural, 4 in Maidstone Rural, 1 in Tonbridge Rural, 2 in Sevenoaks Urban, and 1 in Tonbridge Urban Districts, and gave a death-rate of .08 per 1,000 of population.

Diarrhœa fell from 62 deaths in 1899 to 31 in 1900, which occurred: 12 in Bromley Rural, 2 in Cranbrook Rural, 5 in Maidstone Rural, 2 in Sevenoaks Rural, 1 in Tenterden Rural, 6 in Tonbridge Rural, 1 in Sevenoaks Urban, and 2 in Southborough Urban Districts.

Three of these deaths were those of non-residents.

The Diarrhœa death-rate was 0.1 per 1,000 of population.

Influenza caused 74 deaths as follows:—

Bromley Rural ...	...	...	8 deaths.
Cranbrook „ ...	...	...	8 „
Maidstone „ ...	...	...	16 „
Sevenoaks „ ...	...	...	18 „
Tenterden „ ...	...	...	7 „
Tonbridge „ ...	...	...	6 „
Sevenoaks Urban	...	...	4 „
Southborough Urban	...	...	2 „
Tenterden Urban	...	...	2 „
Tonbridge „ ...	...	...	3 „
Total ...			74 deaths.

The Influenza death-rate was 0·5 per 1,000 of population.

Phthisis caused 165 deaths, 6 of which were those of non-residents, giving a Phthisis death-rate of 1·1 per 1,000 of population.

During the year 1900 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales was 28·9 ; the general death-rate 18·3 and the Zymotic death-rate 2·00 per 1,000 of population.

The rate of mortality amongst infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 154.

The death-rates from the seven principal Zymotic diseases were as below :—

Small-pox, 0·00 ; Measles, 0·39 ; Scarlet Fever, 0·12 ; Diphtheria, 0·29 ; Whooping-cough, 0·34 ; Fevers, 0·17 ; and Diarrhœa, 0·69.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

Table 1.—For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents regis- tered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	141,778	3338	23.5	353	105	2066	13.8	442	160	9	1915	13.5

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Table 2.

Names of Localities. Year 1900.	West Kent Rural.	Bromley Rural.	Cranbrook Rural.	Maidstone Rural.	Sevenoaks Rural.	Tenterden Rural.	Tonbridge Rural.	Sevenoaks Urban.	Southborough Urban.	Tenterden Urban.	Tonbridge Urban.
Population estimated to middle of each year.	141778	32932	13701	16301	23914	6267	18289	9089	7077	3261	10947
Births registered.	3338	744	274	386	543	138	483	152	182	77	253
Deaths at all ages.	1915	439	181	241	298	93	248	107	88	58	162
Deaths under 1 year.	353	79	28	41	55	13	54	25	18	5	25

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in the district excluded. (See note on table 1 as to meaning of terms “resident” and “non-resident.”)

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities, according to addresses of the deceased.

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1900.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.								No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.											
	At Ages†—Years.						Bromley Rural.	Cranbrook Rural.	Maidstone Rural.	Sevenoaks Rural.	Tenterden Rural.	Tonbridge Rural.	Sevenoaks Urban.	Southborough Urban.	Tenterden Urban.	Tonbridge Urban.	Bromley Rural.	Cranbrook Rural.	Maidstone Rural.	Sevenoaks Rural.	Tenterden Rural.	Tonbridge Rural.	Sevenoaks Urban.	Southborough Urban.	Tenterden Urban.	Tonbridge Urban.
	65 and upwards.																									
	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.																					
At all ages.	7	127	432	100	158	11	287	69	86	135	26	69	52	63	8	40	195	—	3	23	—	43	16	32	—	15
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	378	71	223	42	37	—	131	19	33	61	14	31	35	49	2	3	105	—	2	11	—	18	9	27	—	—
Membranous Croup ...	2	1	8	11	76	11	49	12	6	17	1	5	2	4	2	10	76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	108	—	184	33	13	—	88	35	40	37	10	24	15	8	3	19	76	—	1	1	—	22	7	5	—	14
Scarlet Fever ...	279	49	—	—	—	—	18	1	7	19	—	8	—	1	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
Typhus Fever ...	63	6	16	13	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
* Totals ...	835	7	127	432	100	158	287	69	86	135	26	69	52	63	8	40	195	—	3	23	—	43	16	32	—	15

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables 2 and 4.
State the name of the Isolation Hospital, if any, used by the sick of the district. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district.
* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district
† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.



Table 4.— Causes of, and

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	14	4	10	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	3	—	2	—	1	—	—
Who'ping-cough	12	9	2	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria and membranous croup	38	3	17	18	—	—	—
Croup	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fever. {	Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Enteric	10	—	—	3	7	—
	Other con- tinued ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influ- enza	74	4	2	3	3	34	28
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa. (See notes page 14)	28	16	4	—	—	5	3
Enteritis. (See notes page 14)	40	27	4	2	1	2	4
Puerperal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	9	—	—	—	—	6	3
Other septic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis	159	1	4	7	27	107	13
Other tubercular diseases	36	6	11	5	5	8	1
Cancer, malig- nant disease... 114	—	—	—	1	1	67	45
Bronchitis	212	58	34	2	1	30	87
Pneumonia	119	10	11	5	5	50	38
Pleurisy	7	—	1	1	1	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory organs	8	1	1	—	—	2	4
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of } liver }	32	—	—	—	—	17	15
Venereal dis'ses	9	—	—	—	—	2	7
Premature birth	57	57	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases and acci- dents of partu- rition.....	9	1	—	—	2	6	—
Heart diseases... 236	4	2	9	4	80	137	
Accidents	57	3	5	5	5	27	12
Suicides	9	—	—	—	2	4	3
All other causes	622	149	31	23	14	110	295
All causes ... 1915	353	141	82	76	567	696	

See 1

at, Death during Year 1900.

Deaths in Localities (at all Ages).									Deaths in Public Institutions.
Crainbrook Rural.	Maidstone Rural.	Sevenoaks Rural.	Tenterden Rural.	Tonbridge Rural.	Sevenoaks Urban.	Southboro' Urban.	Tenterden Urban.	Tonbridge Urban.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	3	—	—	5	—	—	—	3	—
—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
—	4	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
3	5	6	3	4	2	2	—	—	14
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	16	18	7	6	4	2	2	3	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	5	2	1	3	1	2	—	—	2
6	4	5	—	8	5	1	—	2	2
2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	17	25	5	31	7	5	8	12	39
2	—	7	3	6	2	4	1	8	5
14	8	17	1	16	8	7	4	12	22
20	25	40	5	28	6	13	10	23	25
5	21	13	5	22	10	3	2	5	32
—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	4
—	1	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	1
7	7	3	1	4	—	1	2	—	6
1	—	3	—	1	2	—	1	—	5
4	2	11	2	4	7	1	1	4	1
—	2	—	1	4	—	—	1	—	—
20	21	42	14	46	5	9	10	17	73
4	11	3	—	9	5	1	1	9	1
—	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
69	74	97	45	45	40	37	13	61	200
181	241	298	93	248	107	88	58	161	442

Notes of Table 12 and 13.

NOTES.— (a) The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are to be included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are to be excluded. See note on Table 1 as to meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents."

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, to be classified under "Public Institutions."

(c) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric cattarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4, attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.